GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:64
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2016
Closed Tea Gardens
Roy Prof. Saugata

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of tea gardens have closed down and if so, the details of such tea gardens, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government has ascertained the reasons for the closure of tea gardens including small and medium;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to revive the closed tea gardens;

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to help the tea garden workers, who lost their livelihood due to the closure of tea gardens; and

(e) whether the Tea Board has been able to perform its regulatory role effectively and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 64 FOR ANSWER ON 21st NOVEMBER, 2016 REGARDING "CLOSED TEA GARDENS"

(a) & (b): At present seven tea gardens in West Bengal and two tea gardens in Kerala are reported to be closed. The state wise details are given in annexure. The reasons for closure includes, inter alia, low yield from the estates, poor garden management practices, low quality produce, low price realizations and labour unrest etc.

(c) & (d): The condition of tea gardens is being monitored regularly by the Central Government through the Tea Board to facilitate reopening of the closed gardens. Government of India has requested the State Government to provide the benefits of social and economic development/welfare schemes of Central and State Government to all tea growing areas.

State Governments concerned have been taking several steps for revival of the closed gardens. The West Bengal Government has cancelled land lease in respect of Bundapani, Redbank, Dharanipur and Surendranagar tea estates and taken possession of the land to find out new entrepreneurs. Dheklapara estate was officially liquidated by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court and the garden was put up for e-auction. However, no prospective buyer was available. Panighata Tea Estate has been recently closed due to labour unrest. Efforts are also being made by State Government of Kerala for reviving MMJ Plantations-Kottamala & Bonami Tea Estate and M/s Peermade Tea Co. Ltd.-Peermade & Lonetree Tea Estates.

(e): Tea Board is responsible for implementation of various regulatory and developmental functions under the Tea Act, 1953 for increasing production, marketing and export promotion. Tea Board has endeavoured to discharge its role effectively through implementation of the Tea Development and Promotion Scheme and enforcement of regulatory provisions.

Annexure
State wise details of Closed Tea Gardens/Estates

Sl. No.	Name of the Tea Estate (T.E.)	State	Area under Tea (Ha)	No. of Workers	
				Permanent	Temporary
1	Dheklapara T.E	West Bengal	197	604	200 (Approx.)
2	Bundapani T.E		530	1215	68
3	Dharanipur T.E		265	357	450 (Approx.)
4	Redbank T.E		369	888	700 (Approx.)
5	Surendranagar T.E		172	301	150 (Approx.)
6	Madhu T.E		323	947	0
7.	Panighata T.E.		460.15	787	0
8.	M/s Peermade Tea Co. Ltd.-Peermade & Lonetree T.E.	Kerala			

679.79

220

0

9 M/s MMJ Plantations-Kottamala & Bonami T.E

677.51

375

0
Total 9 closed tea gardens 3673.45 5694 1568

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